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Catholic Charities' work moves ahead

By Transcript Staff

HARTFORD—June was a banner month for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Besides sure signs of progress in two of its largest undertakings in recent years, it also included a fund-raiser to ensure the success of future commitments.

The month included a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Institute for the Hispanic Family in Hartford, which will increase both in size and in the services it provides; a Mass and open house for alumni of the former St. Joseph's Cathedral School in Hartford, which soon will undergo construction converting it into affordable/supportive housing; and a fund-raising breakfast at the Hartford Hilton.

The new \$6.5-million building for the Institute for the Hispanic Family, like the one currently in operation, will be located in the heart of the Latino community and will offer social services, day care, a senior center, mental health care and parenting classes.

At the groundbreaking ceremony on June 8, Rose Alma Senatore, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, called the future Institute for the Hispanic Family, "our dream come true."

She said that the new, 22,000-square-foot facility will increase greatly the number of people that will be served and the scope of the services offered.

Mayor Eddie Perez said, "This is a community that has so many needs from birth to the golden years."

Mayor Perez thanked Archbishop Henry J. Mansell for mak-



BEGINNING A NEW ERA OF HISPANIC FAMILY SUPPORT — From left, State Comptroller Nancy Wyman breaks ground June 8 with Rose Alma Senatore, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities; Archbishop Henry J. Mansell; Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez; and Michael Culhane, chairman of Catholic Charities' board of trustees. The event symbolized construction of a new Institute for the Hispanic Family in Hartford. (Photo by John Bohuslaw)

ing a dream come true. He attributed the success of the venture to both the foresight of Archbishop Mansell and the leadership of Ms. Senatore.

The Mass and open house at the former cathedral school on June 10 gave alumni a chance to tour their alma mater before its conversion begins. The \$8.1-million initiative began with "seed money" from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

Cathedral Green, as the facility will be called, will offer 28 units of supportive permanent housing to

homeless families, families at risk of homelessness or those falling 50 percent below the area's median poverty level.

The project has received \$7.8-million from the Connecticut Finance Housing Authority and a housing tax credit from Connecticut Light and Power for the preconstruction and construction phase.

The groundbreaking is scheduled to be in September and renovations are expected to take a year.

More than 420 people attended

the second annual Catholic Charities Help and Hope Breakfast on June 5. J. Peter O'Donnell III, development director, reported the event raised \$50,000.

At the breakfast, Archbishop Mansell congratulated and thanked Ms. Senatore and her dedicated volunteers and staff, who "accomplish so much for individuals and families struggling each day to provide good lives for themselves and their children."

He said a groundbreaking also is expected in future months for reno-

novations to the former St. Donato Church in New Haven, which will become a new Catholic Charities Service Center serving the southern region of the Archdiocese.

The three Catholic Charities construction projects are among the continuing initiatives that receive funding from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

Tony Award-winning actor Brian Dennehy, guest speaker, urged continued support to feed the needy, especially the children.

He recalled attending a charitable event at which he saw one young girl who filled her plate several times. He was amazed at how hungry she was, and, he said, it was an incident he will never forget.

Mr. Dennehy added that we must remember those who hunger and never forget to "help one person, one hungry child, one meal, one day at a time."

Also at the breakfast, Archbishop Mansell presented the Help and Hope Award to the Knights of Columbus for their many charitable contributions to the Archdiocese. The award was accepted by Robert J. Lane, supreme secretary and chairman of the fraternal organization's 125th anniversary committee.

Students in a mentoring program sponsored by Catholic Charities at the Fox Middle School entertained.

Catholic Charities has been a licensed, accredited social service arm of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford for more than 90 years, serving more than 25,000 people of all faiths annually.